

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10991

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: U.S. INTERACADEMY EXCHANGEES APPROACHED BY REPRESENTATIVE
OF REFUSENIK CHUDNOVSKIY

REFS: (A) GREENBERG LETTER OF JULY 1, 1977 TO WILKINSON.
EUR/SOV/EXCHANGES; (B) MOSCOW 7479

1. SUMMARY - REPRESENTATIVE OF REFUSENIK CHUDNOVSKIY AGAIN
APPROACHED U.S. EXCHANGEES CANNONITO JULY 22. CANNONITO DECLINED
CONTACT. SOVIET MATHEMATICIAN SUGGESTS CHUDNOVSKIY WILL BE
ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE SOON. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERACADEMY EXCHANGEES MATHEMATICIAN DR. FRANK CANNONITO
ADVISED EMBASSY JULY 27 THAT HE HAD AGAIN (REF A) BEEN
APPROACHED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF CHUDNOVSKIY, A DR. MANIN,
A YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AT THE STEKLOV INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS WHO
IS ALLEGEDLY AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY,
SPOKE WITH CANNONITO ON JULY 22 AT THE INSTITUTE. DR. SERGEY
ADYAN, CANNONITO'S SPONSOR, HELPED ARRANGE THIS MEETING, ABOUT
WHICH CANNONITO HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE. ADYAN, HOWEVER, DID
NOT TAKE PART. FYI. CANNONITO HAD INFORMED ADYAN IN JUNE THAT
PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY HAD REQUESTED
TH U.S. EXCHANGEES, WHO LIKE CHUDNOVSKIY SUFFERS FROM
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MYASTHENIA GRAVIS, TO BRING MEDICINE TO THE USSR FOR THE
REFUSENIK. ADYAN WAS ALSO ADVISED THAT CANNONITO HAD
REFUSED THIS REQUEST AS WELL AS A JUNE 20 INVITATION FROM
CHUDNOVSKIY AND THAT CANNONITO HAS NO INTENTION OF ASSISTING
THE REFUSENIK. ADYAN RESPONDED THEN BY DISCOURAGING
CANNONITO FROM MEETING CHUDNOVSKIY. END FYI.

3. AT JULY 22 MEETING, MANIN REPEATED CHUDNOVSKIY'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING. MANIN ALSO STATED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD A "PAPER" WHICH HE WANTED SENT TO THE WEST AND HE SUGGESTED THAT CANNONITO ARRANGE THIS. CANNONITO DECLINED TO MEET EITHER REQUEST.

4. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION WITH MANIN, ADYAN ADVISED CANNONITO TO MEET CHUDNOVSKIY, IF HE CHOOSES TO DO SO, ONLY AT THE STEKLOV INSTITUTE. ADYAN ALSO DECLARED THAT HE COULD NOT ADVISE CANNONITO ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PROVIDE CHUDNOVSKIY WITH MEDICINE. PREVIOUSLY, ADYAN HAD COUNSELED STRONGLY AGAINST ASSISTING CHUDNOVSKIY.

5. ADYAN ALSO STATED THAT HE "UNDERSTOOD" THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WERE GOING TO ALLOW THE CHUDNOVSKIY FAMILY TO EMIGRATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. FYI. ADYAN IS ADISTINGUISHED THEORETICAL MATHEMATICIAN WHO TRAVELS ABROAD REGULARLY, MOST RECENTLY IN JUNE-JULY 1977 TO THE FRG. HE FIRST MET CANNONITO IN 1970 AT A CONFERENCE AT OXFORD AND SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED CANNONITO IN 1975 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT IRVINE. CANNONITO REPORTS THAT ADYAN HAS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR CHUDNOVSKIY THOUGH ADYAN IS, AS CHARACTERIZED BY CANNONITO, ANTI-SEMITIC. END FYI.

7. CANNONITO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CHUDNOVSKIY (COMMENT. WE NOTE THAT THESE FACTS DIFFER IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THOSE BEING CURRENTLY REPORTED IN THE WESTERN PRESS. WE ARE UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO CONFIRM VALIDITY OF DATA FROM ANY SOURCE. END COMMENT): CHUDNOVSKIY, A 25-YEAR OLD MATHEMATICIAN FROM KIEV, FIRST ACHIEVED NOTORIETY IN THE EARLY 1970S WHEN HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SOLVED INDEPENDENTLY "HILBERT'S TENTH PROBLEM." CANNONITO ADVISES THAT ANOTHER SOVIET MATHEMATICIAN, YURIY MATYASEVICH (PHONETIC) OF LENINGRAD, HAD A PRIOR CLAIM WHICH WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE MATHEMATICAL WORLD IN 1970. ACCORDING TO SOVIET SOURCES, CHUDNOVSKIY'S FAMILY, AND PARTICULARLY HIS MOTHER, REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS VERDICT. SUBSEQUENTLY, MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY REJECTED CHUDNOVSKIY'S KANDIDAT THESIS BECAUSE IT ALLEGEDLY OVERLOOKED A MAJOR ANALYSIS. ADYAN TOLD CANNONITO THAT CHUDNOVSKIY'S DECISION TO EMIGRATE GREW OUT OF HIS MOTHER'S REACTION TO ABOVE REJECTIONS AND HER GENERAL RESENTMENT AT THE LACK OF RECOGNITION ACCORDED HER SON IN THE USSR.

8. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED CANNONITO OF THE SENSITIVITY OF HIS POSITION. HE HAS ASSURED US THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF SEEING CHUDNOVSKIY OR OF PASSING MEDICINE ON TO HIM, AND THAT HE WILL ADVISE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY IF ADDITIONAL

ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO CONTACT HIM.

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